

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 SAS-02 H-01 L-03
PM-05 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
SAA-01 SP-02 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SES-02 SSO-00 DLOS-09
EUR-12 /098 W

-----120605 071428Z /40

O 071212Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2951
SECDEF IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS/J-5
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4-7//
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
USMTM/DCR RIYADH IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 5784

SECDEF FOR ASD/ISA/DSAA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SA, YE
SUBJECT: U.S.-SAUDI SUPPORT FOR YAR: MEETING WITH PRINCE SULTAN

REF: (A) STATE 189537, DTG 271350Z JUL 78
(B) RIYADH 618, DTG 261555Z JUL 78
(C) RIYADH 619, DTG 261630Z JUL 78
(D) USMTM 300601Z JUL 78
(E) USMTM 021520Z AUG 78
(F) JIDDA 5695, DTG 031558Z AUG 78
(G) STATE 198372, DTG 052124Z AUG 78
(H) SECDEF 3228, DTG 052153Z AUG 78

SUMMARY: MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF USMTM, EMBASSY
JIDDA, EMBASSY SANA, MIN DEF PRINCE SULTAN, AND FON MIN
PRINCE SAUD TOOK PLACE IN TAIF ON AUGUST 6. PROGRAM
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DEVELOPED IN EARLIER JOINT STAFF MEETINGS WAS APPROVED.
END SUMMARY.

1. MEETING WAS HELD AT TAIF ON AUGUST 6 WITH SAUDI
MIN DEF PRINCE SULTAN TO DISCUSS U.S.-SAUDI MILITARY
SUPPORT FOR YAR. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY SAUDI FON MIN

PRINCE SAUD, HEAD OF SAUDI MILITARY MISSION IN YAR, SAUDI CHIEF OF STAFF, MODA DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, AMBASSADOR WEST, CHYSMTM GENERAL CATHEY, USMTM/DCR, DCM, POLITICAL COUNSELOR, CHARGE FROM EMBASSY SANA, OSD/ISA REPRESENTATIVE, AND OJCS/J5 REPRESENTATIVE.

2. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, AMBASSADOR NOTED HIS SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS SINCE LAST MEETING. HE SAID HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE SEVERAL POINTS. FIRST WAS THE NECESSITY OF INSURING CLOSEST POSSIBLE SAG-US-YAR COOPERATION. HE SAID WE SAW SAUDI ARABIA AS SENIOR PARTNER AND U.S. AS JUNIOR PARTNER IN OUR EFFORTS TO BOLSTER YAR DEFENSES. WHILE WE LOOK ON SAUDI ARABIA AS THE PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANT AND WILL BE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SAG ON POLICY AND EVEN OPERATIONAL MATTERS, WE MUST BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH YARG IN ORDER TO MAKE PROGRAM WORK.

3. AMBASSADOR SAID SECOND POINT WAS THE MOST SENSITIVE ISSUE, THAT OF FUNDING. HE WAS HAPPY TO REPORT THAT USG IS PREPARED TO FUND UP TO SIX PRIMARY PERSONNEL FOR THE TRAINING MISSION. WE ARE STILL EXPLORING WAYS TO FUND ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM. IN ANY EVENT, IT WILL BE AT LEAST FY 1980 BEFORE WE CAN OFFER HOPE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

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4. AMBASSADOR THEN TURNED TO QUESTION OF NON-TRANSFER ASSURANCES. WE UNDERSTAND SAG DESIRE TO HAVE RESTRICTIONS ON FOUTRY-COUNTRY TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT BY YAR. HOWEVER, OUR LAWYERS TELL US THAT WE MUST HAVE INDEPENDENT NON-TRANSFER ASSUREANCES DIRECT FROM THE YAR. WE THINK WE HAVE FOUND A SOLUTION WHICH WILL SATISFY OUR REQUIREMENTS AND TAKE SAUDI DESIRES INTO ACCOUNT. BOTH U.S. AND SAUDI ARABIA CAN OBTAIN SEPARATE NON-TRANSFER ASSURANCES FROM YARG AND SAG WOULD HAVE AS TIGHT A CONTROL AS USG. SULTAN REPLIED THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE PROVIDED THAT USG AGREED IN EXCHANGE OF NOTES THAT IT WOULD NOT ALLOW FURTHER TRANSFER BY YARG WITHOUT SAG CONCURRENCE. PRINCE SAUD INTERJECTED THAT EXCHANGE OF NOTES WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY ON ANY EQUIPMENT USG PAID FOR. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT SUGGESTION ON EXCHANGE OF NOTES WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON. SULTAN NODDED AND INDICATED THAT HE WANTED SAME ARRANGEMENT APPLIED TO BAHRAIN.

5. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WE CAN MAKE AVAILABLE TECHNICAL TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE TEAMS FOR LIMITED PERIODS. SULTAN NOTED THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY 70 TO

90 SOVIET ADVISORS IN YAR THAT WE MUST REPLACE OR YAR
WILL NOT BE HAPPY. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WE DID NOT
DISAGREE WITH SAG VIEWS. HOWEVER, USG DOES NOT WISH TO
MAKE COMMITMENT TO REPLACE RUSSIAN ADVISORS MAN FOR MAN
AND RUSSIAN EQUIPMENT ON ONE FOR ONE BASIS OR BETTER AT
THIS TIME. USG INTENDS TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN THIS
MATTER. GENERAL CATHEY POINTED OUT THAT YAR PRESIDENT
SALIH WISHED TO CREATE A FORCE EQUAL TO FORCE IN SOUTH
YEMEN. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WE DID NOT NECESSARILY DIS-
AGREE WITH THIS GOAL BUT THAT IS WAS UNREALISTIC AT THIS
TIME. WE MUST WALK BEFORE WE RUN.. SULTAN AGREED,
SAYING THAT YAR WAS NOT YET ABLE TO ABSORB GREAT AMOUNTS
OF SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE
CURRENT SITUATION, WE HAVE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PRO-
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GRAM TO INDICATE SUPPORT FOR YARG AND SEND THE USSR A
SIGNAL.

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6. DISCUSSION THEN SHIFTED TO THE RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE SAUDI SIDE IN THE AUGUST 2 MEETING FOR A JOINT-USG-SAG STUDY OF YAR MILITARY REQUIREMENTS AS DETERMINED BY A JOINT SAG-USG THREAT ANALYSIS. SULTAN CONCURRED WITH THE RECOMMENDATION AND SAID SAUDI G-2 ALREADY HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO BEGIN THREAT ANALYSIS IN COORDINATION WITH USMTM. IT WAS AGREED BY ALL THAT RESULTS OF THIS ANALYSIS WOULD NOT BE SHARED WITH YARG. PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT TO DO SO MIGHT RESULT IN ATTEMPT BY YARG TO EXAGGERATE THE THREAT IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE SAG AND USG.

7. SULTAN THUMBER THROUGH WRITTEN REPORT ON PROPOSED PROGRAM THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AT BEGINNING OF MEETING AND SAID THAT HE WAS VERY HAPPY WITH IT EVEN THOUGH IT DID NOT TURN OUT EXACTLY AS HE HAD EXPECTED. IT WAS SECRET

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PRACTICAL STEP. HE PARTICULARLY LIKED IDEA OF TRILATERAL EXERCISES IN YAR, WHICH HE SAID WOULD RAISE YAR MARALE AND LEND SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT SALIH. AMBASSADOR SIAD DELIVERY OF HIGH IMPACT MATERIAL DURING SHORT RANGE PROGRAM BY USAF C-141'S AND RSAF C-130'S WAS BOUND TO MAKE IMPRESSION ON PRESIDENT SALIH AND YAR PEOPLE. SULTAN SAID THIS WAS GOOD IDEA AND THEN SUGGESTED THAT VISIT OF U.S. WARSHIP TO HUDAYDAH WOULD HAVE GREAT IMPACT. HE ALSO SUGGESTED USAF FLYING AND/OR FIREPOWER DEMONSTRATION. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT SHOW OF FORCE MATTER HAD BEEN REFERRED TO WASHINGTON AND WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED REACTION.

8. AMBASSADOR INQUIRED AS TO TIMING AND METHOD OF NOTIFICATION TO YARG OF SAG-USG DECISION. PRINCE SULTAN SAID HE WAS GOING TO SEND WRITTEN MESSAGE TO SALIH ON AUGUST 7 INFORMING HIM EXACTLY WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED ON SO THAT HE WILL NOT GET HIS HOPES UP AND BE DISAPPOINTED LATER. IT WAS THEN AGREED THAT ON AUGUST 10 GENERAL KABBANI AND GENERAL CATHEY WOULD GO TO SANA TO DISCUSS DETAILS WITH YARG.

9. IN CLOSING, AMBASSADOR SAID USG WAS STILL AWAITING SAG REPLIES ON USG OFFER ON MOBLIE AIR DEFENSE RADAR, REQUEST FOR POSSIBLE TRANSLATOR ASSISTANCE IN YAR, AND USMTM SUGGESTION THAT SAG USE A FREIGHT FORWARDER FOR SHIPMENT OF EQUIPMENT TO YAR. SULTAN ACKNOWLEDGED REQUEST FOR REPLIES. ON QUESTION OF TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE, HE SAID THAT TRANSLATORS WERE AHRD TO FIND IN YEMEN. IF THIRD COUNTRY TRANSLATORS ARE USED, HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE NATIONALS FROM PRECIOUS COUNTRIES, SUCH AS SUDAN.

10. IN HIS CLOSING STATEMENT, SULTAN EMPHASIZED THAT
NO SAG-USG DISAGREEMENTS BE EXPOSED TO YAR. HE ACKNOW-
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LEDGED THAT DISAGREEMENTS WOULD ARISE, BUT HE SAID THAT
IF THEY COULD NOT BE SOLVED ON THE SPOT IN YAR, THEY
SHOULD BE REFERRED IMMEDIATELY TO SAG-USG GROUP IN
SAUDI ARABIA FOR RESOLUTION. DISAGREEMENTS SHOULD BE
CLOSELY HELD SO AS NOT TO GIVE YEMENIS CHANCE TO EXPLOIT
THEM. U.S. CHARGE FROM SANA SAID THAT AMERICANS COMING
TO SANA ON THIS PROGRAM WOULD HAVE IDENTICAL INSTRUCTIONS.

11. COMMENT: MEETING WAS VERY CORDIAL. SAUDIS SEEMED
HAPPY WITH PROGRAM AND DETERMINED TO BE COOPERATIVE AND
TO MAKE PROGRAM WORK.
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